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# The New Oxford Dictionary of English

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The Pharisees are mentioned only by Josephus and in the New Testament. Unlike the Sadducees, who tried to apply Mosaic law strictly, the Pharisees allowed some freedom of interpretation. Although in the Gospels they are represented as the chief opponents of Christ, they seem to have been less hostile than the Sadducees to the nascent Church, with which they shared belief in the Resurrection.

- DERIVATIVES **Pharisaic** /fərɪ'seɪk/ adjective. **Pharisaical** adjective. **Pharisaism** /fərɪ'seɪzɪzm/ noun.

- ORIGIN Old English *fariseus*, via ecclesiastical Latin from Greek *Pharisaios*, from Aramaic *prisaya* 'separated ones' (related to Hebrew *paras* 'separated').

**pharmaceutical** /fərmə'sjʊtɪk(ə)l/ ► adjective of or relating to medicinal drugs, or their preparation, use, or sale.

► noun (usu. **pharmaceuticals**) a compound manufactured for use as a medicinal drug.

■ (pharmaceuticals) shares in companies manufacturing medicinal drugs.

- DERIVATIVES **pharmaceutically** adverb. **pharmaceutics** plural noun.

- ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: via late Latin from Greek *pharmakeutikos* (from *pharmakeutes* 'druggist', from *pharmakon* 'drug') + -AL.

**pharmacist** ► noun a person who is professionally qualified to prepare and dispense medicinal drugs.

**pharmaco-** /fə'ma:kəʊ/ ► combining form relating to drugs: pharmacogenetics.

- ORIGIN from Greek *pharmakon* 'drug, medicine'.

**pharmacodynamics** ► plural noun [treated as sing.] the branch of pharmacology concerned with the effects of drugs and the mechanism of their action.

- DERIVATIVES **pharmacodynamic** adjective.

**pharmacogenetics** ► plural noun [treated as sing.] the branch of pharmacology concerned with the effect of genetic factors on reactions to drugs.

**pharmacognosy** /fərmə'kɒnəsɪ/ ► noun [mass noun] the branch of knowledge concerned with medicinal drugs obtained from plants or other natural sources.

- DERIVATIVES **pharmacognosist** noun.

- ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from **PHARMACO-** 'of drugs' + *gnosis* 'knowledge'.

**pharmacokinetics** ► plural noun [treated as sing.] the branch of pharmacology concerned with the movement of drugs within the body.

- DERIVATIVES **pharmacokinetic** adjective.

**pharmacology** ► noun [mass noun] the branch of medicine concerned with the uses, effects, and modes of action of drugs.

- DERIVATIVES **pharmacologic** adjective. **pharmacological** adjective. **pharmacologically** adverb. **pharmacologist** noun.

- ORIGIN early 18th cent.: from modern Latin *pharmacologia*, from Greek *pharmakon* 'drug'.

**pharmacopoeia** /fə'ma:kə'piə/ (US also *pharmacopia*) ► noun a book, especially an official publication, containing a list of medicinal drugs with their effects and directions for their use.

■ a stock of medicinal drugs.

- ORIGIN early 17th cent.: modern Latin, from Greek *pharmakopoeia* 'art of preparing drugs', based on *pharmakon* 'drug' + *poies* 'making'.

**pharmacotherapy** ► noun [mass noun] medical treatment by means of drugs.

**pharmacy** ► noun (pl. -ies) a shop or hospital dispensary where medicinal drugs are provided or sold.

■ [mass noun] the science or practice of the preparation and dispensing of medicinal drugs.

- ORIGIN late Middle English (denoting the administration of drugs): from Old French *farmacie*, via medieval Latin from Greek *pharmakeia* 'practice of the druggist', based on *pharmakon* 'drug'.

**Pharos** /fə'ros/ a lighthouse, often considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World, erected by Ptolemy II (308–246 BC) in c.280 BC on the island of Pharos, off the coast of Alexandria.

■ [as noun] **pharos** a lighthouse or a beacon to guide sailors.

**pharyngeal** /fə'rin(d)ʒiəl/; /fərɪng'gɛl/ ► adjective of or relating to the pharynx.

■ Phonetics (of a speech sound) produced by articulating the root of the tongue with the pharynx, a feature of certain consonants in Arabic, for example.

► noun Phonetics a pharyngeal consonant.

- ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from modern Latin

**pharyngeus** (from Greek *pharinx*, *pharung-* 'throat') + -AL.

**pharyngealize** /fə'rin(d)ʒi:ləɪz/ (also -ise) ► verb [with obj.] Phonetics articulate (a speech sound) with constriction of the pharynx.

- DERIVATIVES **pharyngealization** noun.

**pharyngitis** /fərɪng'gɪtɪs/ ► noun [mass noun] Medicine inflammation of the pharynx, causing a sore throat.

**pharyngo-** /fə'ringgəʊ/ ► combining form of or relating to the pharynx: pharyngotomy.

- ORIGIN from modern Latin *pharynx*, *pharyng-*.

**pharyngotomy** /fərɪng'gɒtəmɪ/ ► noun (pl. -ies) a surgical incision into the pharynx.

**pharynx** /fərɪngks/ ► noun (pl. **pharynges** /fərɪnggɪz/) Anatomy & Zoology the membrane-lined cavity behind the nose and mouth, connecting them to the oesophagus.

■ Zoology the part of the alimentary canal immediately behind the mouth in invertebrates.

- ORIGIN late 17th cent.: modern Latin, from Greek *pharinx*, *pharung-*.

**phascogale** /fə'skəgəl/ ► noun a small arboreal flesh- and nectar-eating Australian marsupial with a pointed snout, large eyes and ears, and a bushy tail.

■ Genus *Phascogale*, family Dasyuridae: two species.

- ORIGIN modern Latin, from Greek *phaskōlos* 'purse + gale' 'weasel'.

**phase** /feɪz/ ► noun 1 a distinct period or stage in a process of change or forming part of something's development: the final phases of the war | [as modifier] phase two of the development is in progress.

■ a stage in a person's psychological development, especially a period of temporary unhappiness or difficulty during adolescence or a particular stage during childhood: most of your fans are going through a phase. ■ each of the aspects of the moon or a planet, according to the amount of its illumination, especially the new moon, the first quarter, the full moon, and the last quarter. ■ each of the separate events in an evening competition.

■ a stage in the life cycle or annual cycle of an animal.

3 Chemistry a distinct and homogeneous form of matter (i.e. a particular solid, liquid, or gas) separated by its surface from other forms.

4 Physics the relationship in time between the successive states or cycles of an oscillating or repeating system (such as an alternating electric current or a light or sound wave) and either a fixed reference point or the states or cycles of another system with which it may or may not be in synchrony.

■ each of the electrical windings or connections of a polyphase machine or circuit.

5 Linguistics (in systemic grammar) the relationship between a catenative verb and the verb that follows it, as in she hoped to succeed and I like swimming.

■ a structure containing two verbs in such a relationship.

► verb [with obj.] (usu. **be phased**) 1 carry out (something) in gradual stages: the work is being phased over a number of years | [as adj. **phased**] a phased withdrawal of troops.

■ (phase something) introduce into (or withdraw from) use in gradual stages: our armed forces policy was to be phased in over 10 years.

2 Physics adjust the phase of (something), especially so as to synchronize it with something else.

- PHRASES in (or out of) phase being or happening in (or out of) synchrony or harmony: the cabling work should be carried out in phase with the building work.

- ORIGIN early 19th cent. (denoting each aspect of the moon): from French *phase*, based on Greek *phasis* 'appearance', from the base of *phainein* 'to show'.

**phase angle** ► noun Physics an angle representing a difference in phase, 360 degrees (2π radians) corresponding to one complete cycle.

■ Astronomy the angle between the lines joining a given planet to the sun and to the earth.

**phase contrast** ► noun [mass noun] the technique in microscopy of introducing a phase difference between parts of the light supplied by the condenser so as to enhance the outlines of the sample, or the boundaries between parts differing in optical density.

**phase diagram** ► noun Chemistry a diagram representing the limits of stability of the phases in a chemical system at equilibrium with respect to variables such as composition, temperature.

**phase-lock** ► verb [with obj.] Electronics the frequency of (an oscillator or a laser) relative oscillator of lower frequency by a frequency difference generated by any shift in frequency.

**phase modulation** ► noun [mass noun] the variation of the phase of a radio or other wave means of carrying information such as an signal.

**phaser** ► noun 1 an instrument that alters a signal by phasing it. 2 (in science fiction) a weapon that delivers a that can stun or annihilate.

**phase rule** ► noun Chemistry a rule relating possible numbers of phases, constituent degrees of freedom in a chemical system.

**phase shift** ► noun Physics a change in the waveform.

**phase space** ► noun Physics a multidimentional space in which each axis corresponds to one coordinates required to specify the state physical system, all the coordinates being represented so that a point in the corresponds to a state of the system.

**phase velocity** ► noun Physics the speed propagation of a sine wave or a single component of a complex wave, equal product of its wavelength and frequency.

**phasic** /'feɪzɪk/ ► adjective of or relating to phases.

■ Medicine characterized by occurrence in rather than continuously: phasic and tonic reflexes.

**phasing** ► noun [mass noun] the relationship the timing of two or more events, a adjustment of this relationship: graphical tools were used to investigate the phasing of traffic lights.

■ the modification of the sound signal from an guitar or other electronic instrument by introducing a phase shift into either of two copies of it: recombining them. ■ the action of dividing task or process into several stages: the phase overall project.

**Phasmida** /fəzɪmɪdə/ 1 Entomology an order that comprises the stick insects and leaf. They have very long bodies that resemble leaves.

2 Zoology a class of nematodes that include parasitic hookworms and roundworms. Also **SECRERNTEA**.

- DERIVATIVES **phasmid** noun & adjective.

- ORIGIN modern Latin (plural), from Latin 'apparition', from Greek.

**phasor** /fə'zɔ:/ ► noun Physics a line used to represent a complex electrical quantity as a vector.

- ORIGIN 1940s: from **PHASE**, on the pattern

**phat** /fæt/ ► adjective black slang excellent: a low with a really phat funk sound.

- ORIGIN 1970s (originally used to describe a in the sense 'sexy, attractive'); of uncertain

**phatic** /'fætɪk/ ► adjective denoting or relating language used for general purposes of interaction, rather than to convey information or ask questions. Utterances such as hello, how are you, nice morning, isn't it? are phatic.

- ORIGIN 1920s: from Greek *phatos* 'affirming'.

**PhD** ► abbreviation for Doctor of Philosophy.

- ORIGIN from Latin *philosophiae doctor*.

**pheasant** ► noun a large long-tailed game bird native to Asia, the male of which typically showy plumage.

■ Family Phasianidae: several genera and many species, particularly the **common pheasant** (*Phasianus colchicus*), which has been widely introduced for shooting.

- ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *fas*, Latin from Greek *phasianos* 'bird'; of a river in the Caucasus, from which the bird is said to have spread westwards.

**pheasantry** ► noun (pl. -ies) a place pheasants are reared or kept.

**pheasant's eye** ► noun a plant of the *Chenopodiaceae* family.